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Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-09 /028 W
----------058299 260517Z /17
R 260144Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5961

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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, XX, NZ
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELLING SURVEY

REF: STATE 178135

1. NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS CONCERNING LABELLING OF FOODSTUFFS COME UNDER TWO CATEGORIES AT PRESENT; (A) SPECIAL FOODS, E.G. DIABETIC FOODS, LOW-CALORIE FOODS, INFANTS' FOODS, AND (B) STANDARD FOODS. THE FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE (AN INDEPENDENT BODY) HAS RECOMMENDED TO GNZ THAT NEW ZEALAND FOLLOW FAOWHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS REGULATIONS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. THIS IS IN OPERATION ALREADY WITH REGARD TO LABELLING OF CONTENTS INCLUDING CARBOHYDRATES IN SPECIAL FOODS. STANDARD FOODS WILL ALL EVENTUALLY SHOW A BREAKDOWN OF INGREDIENTS BUT NOT QUANTITIES, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL LARGE FOOD PROCESSORS ARE ALREADY SHOWING BOTH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITIES VOLUNTARILY.

2. UNDER SECTION 233 OF THE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS 1973, (2), "CARBOHYDRATES ARE DEFINED AS INCLUDING ALCOHOL, GLYCEROL, OR SUGAR ALCOHOLS AND ANY CARBOHYDRATE SUBSTANCE THAT IS CAPABLE OF BEING METABOLISED" - IT IS NOT BROKEN DOWN INTO INDIVIDUAL SUGARS IN THE FORM OF A QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION.
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UNDER SECTION 234 OF THE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS 1973, (1) "DIABETIC FOOD SHALL BE DEFINED AS A SPECIAL-PURPOSE FOOD THAT IS PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR DIABETICS. (2) DIABETIC FOOD MAY CONTAIN THE SPECIFIED NON-NUTRITIVE SWEETENER SACCHARIN, OR ITS SODIUM, CALCIUM, AND AMMONIUM COMPOUNDS, IN A PROPORTION NOT EXCEEDING

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0.01 PERCENT OR SODIUM CYCLAMATE, OR CALCIUM CYCLAMATE,
IN A PROPORTION NOT EXCEEDING 0.15 PERCENT, OR ANY
COMBINATION OF THOSE ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS, PROVIDED THAT
THE AMOUNT OF EACH SUBSTANCE IS SUCH THAT WHEN
IT IS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE AMOUNT PERMITTED
SINGLY, THE SUM OF THE SEVERAL PERCENTAGES DOES NOT
EXCEED 100. IF THE FOOD REQUIRES DILUTION OR
PREPARATION BEFORE CONSUMPTION, THE PROPORTION SHALL
BE CALCULATED IN RELATION TO THE FOOD AFTER SUCH
DILUTION OR PREPARATION. "
DIABETIC FOOD IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH LOW-CALORIE
FOOD WHICH IS DEFINED UNDER THE NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS
AS SPECIAL PURPOSE FOOD THAT IS PARTICULARLY SUITABLE
FOR PERSONS ADOPTING A RESTRICTED CALORIE DIET.

UNDER SECTION 234 OF THE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS 1973,
(4) "EVERY DIABETIC FOOD SHALL BE LABELLED WITH A
STATEMENT INDICATING THE NATURE OF THE CARBOHYDRATE
PRESENT AND EITHER;
(A) (I) TOTAL WEIGHTS AND THE SEPARATE
- PERCENTAGES OF CARBOHYDRATE, PROTEIN,
- AND FAT IN THE PACKAGE OR IN NAMED
- UNITS WITHIN THE PACKAGE, OR;
- (II) A STATEMENT OF TOTAL WEIGHT AND THE
- SEPARATE WEIGHTS OF CARBOHYDRATE,
- PROTEIN, AND FAT IN THE PACKAGE OR
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- IN NAMED UNITS WITHIN THE PACKAGE.

(B) THE TOTAL CALORIC VALUE IN THE PACKAGE OR
- IN NAMED UNITS WITHIN THE PACKAGE; AND

(C) THE NAME OF EVERY PRESERVATIVE PRESENT".

3. RE. PARA 4 (3) REFTEL - UNDER SECTION 10 (1)
(D) OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ACT 1969 IT STATES:
"NO PERSON SHALL PUBLISH OR CAUSE TO PERMIT TO BE
PUBLISHED ANY MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENT WHICH DIRECTLY
OR BY IMPLICATION CLAIMS, INDICATES, OR SUGGESTS THAT

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THE ARTICLE OR METHOD OF TREATMENT ADVERTISED WILL PREVENT, ALLEVIATE OR CURE ANY DISEASE OR DISORDER SPECIFIED, OR BELONGING TO A CLASS OF DISEASE OR DISORDER SPECIFIED IN PART I OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THIS ACT. E.G. DIABETES."
PART I OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE ACT COVERS MANY DISEASES, FURTHER EXAMPLES ARE: ALCOHOLISM, ARTHRITIS, CANCER, EPILEPSY, INFLUENZA, TUBERCULOSIS, ULCERS OF THE GASTRO-INTESTINAL TRACT.

SECTION 10 FURTHER STATES THAT:
(E) "NO PERSON SHALL PUBLISH OR CAUSE OR PERMIT TO BE
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PUBLISHED ANY MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENT WHICH DIRECTLY OR BY IMPLICATION CLAIMS, INDICATES, OR SUGGESTS THAT THE ARTICLE OR METHOD OF TREATMENT ADVERTISED WILL PREVENT OR CURE ANY DISEASE OR DISORDER SPECIFIED, OR BELONGING TO A CLASS OF DISEASE OR DISORDER SPECIFIED, IN PART II OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THIS ACT, E.G. COMMON COLD, DENTAL DECAY, ASTHMA".

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-09 /028 W
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PART II OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE COVERS SEVERAL DISORDERS; FURTHER EXAMPLES ARE: OBESITY, GOUT, RHEUMATISM.

4. STANDARD FOODS: UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS

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1973 PART I (NO. 5) THE FOLLOWING IS OBSERVED:

(1) "EVERY PACKAGE CONTAINING FOOD SHALL, UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THESE REGULATIONS, BEAR A LABEL CONTAINING:

- (A) THE COMMON NAME OF THE FOOD, OR A DESCRIPTION
- (OTHER THAN THE NAME OF THE FOOD)
- SUFFICIENT TO INDICATE THE TRUE NATURE OF
- THE FOOD, OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE FOOD
- CONTAINING THE COMMON NAMES OF ITS PRINCIPAL
- INGREDIENTS; AND
- (B) A STATEMENT OF THE NET WEIGHT OR VOLUME OR
- NUMBER OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKAGE,
- WHICHEVER MEASURE IS APPROPRIATE FOR
- RETAIL SALE OF THE ARTICLE CONCERNED; AND
- (C) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER
- OR SELLER OF THE ARTICLE, OR OF THE OWNER OF
- THE RIGHTS OF MANUFACTURE, OR OF THE AGENT
- OF ANY OF THEM".

5. UNDER SEPARATE AIRGRAM WE HAVE SENT COPIES OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FOLLOWING FOR YOUR FURTHER INFORMATION:

(A) THE FOOD AND DRUG ACT 1969
(B) THE FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS 1973
(C) AMENDMENT NO. 114 - FOOD AND DRUG ACT 1969
(D) AMENDMENTS (1), (2), (3) OF THE FOOD AND DRUG
- REGULATIONS 1973.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOODS, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN03869
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1874251
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELLING SURVEY
TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, XX, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bae4576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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